

## ***NEXT: Growing A Faith That Lasts***

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Think of the students in your ministry. At some point in their lives, many, if not most of them, will have become a Christ-follower. At some point, they knew they were sinners separated from God. They learned that Jesus paid the once-and-for-all price for their sins, making peace between God and them. And in faith, they accepted His sacrifice on their behalf. At some point this was experienced by many of your students. And it was amazing.

**The problem is that, for many of them, their stories don't go much further than this. But this doesn't have to be the case.**

*NEXT: Growing A Faith That Lasts*, will help teenagers begin to lay the foundation of a faith that will last long into their adult life. By teaching *NEXT*, you'll help students know why it's so important to own their faith. You'll help them think differently about their purpose and influence, as well as equipping them to practice the spiritual habits necessary to grow a meaningful faith.

If you want your students to take greater ownership of their faith, *NEXT* is for you.

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### **Small Group Outlines**

#### **Small Group Session 1**

- **Session Title:** Owning A Next-Level Faith
- **Session Purpose:** Students will understand that God calls them to a faith that is always growing, and to accept the challenge to take greater ownership of their faith.
- **Main Scripture:** Hebrews 5:11-14
- **Supporting Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 3:1-3, Hebrews 12:1-3
- **Session Snapshot:** God's plan has always been that our faith would grow. Over and over throughout Scripture, there is the expectation that we would come to know God (salvation), and then would continue to know Him and His ways more, and more. And yet, too often, so many Christ-followers don't seem to take spiritual growth seriously. This is especially true for some of our students. This first session helps make the case for WHY it's important that students grow in their faith. You'll help students catch the vision for taking their faith to the next level through greater faith ownership. If their faith is going to grow, it's going to be because they take a greater role in doing what it takes to know God more.

#### **Small Group Session 2**

- **Session Title:** Unlocking A Next-Level Faith
- **Session Purpose:** Students will understand that taking their faith to the next level isn't possible without understanding, and embracing, their true purpose.
- **Main Scripture:** Romans 5:8-11, Romans 10:14-15
- **Supporting Scripture:**
- **Session Snapshot:** Part of your students taking their faith to the next level is an understanding of their purpose. Simply put, they can't embrace a new direction without knowing where they are heading. This lesson does a great job of defining their purpose by first grounding it in the Gospel. Essentially, this lesson teaches students that they were saved from their sins – reconciled to God – and have been called to be messengers to the world of this same reconciliation. God's plan calls for them to be messengers, in word and action, of God's love for all people. This lesson will help you challenge students to do just that.

### Small Group Session 3

- **Session Title:** Building A Next-Level Faith
- **Session Purpose:** Students will understand that growing a next level faith doesn't happen without a firm foundation of solid spiritual habits.
- **Main Scripture:** Psalm 119:9-16, Psalm 5:3, Hebrews 12:28, Ephesians 6:7
- **Supporting Scripture:** Psalm 19:7-8,
- **Session Snapshot:** Your students most likely understand that to take their faith to the next level, they should have healthy spiritual habits. These include, but certainly are not limited to, Bible reading, prayer, worship, and service. What you'll address in this lesson is their attitude toward these habits. Your goal is to help your students understand that spiritual habits are a joy, not a burden. You'll help students consider their attitude toward these practices, and challenge them to take a fresh look at what it means to draw closer to God.

### Small Group Session 4

- **Session Title:** Living Out A Next-Level Faith
- **Session Purpose:** Students will understand that owning a next level faith leads to increased influence, which they can use to lead others closer to Christ.
- **Main Scripture:** 1 Timothy 4:11-16
- **Supporting Scripture:** Matthew 5:13-16
- **Session Snapshot:** It's probably likely that many of your teenagers aren't leaders. But all of your students have influence. Some of your students have a ton of influence. Some only have influence over a few people. But every one of your students can use their influence to lead others closer to Christ. This final lesson will challenge your students to understand that leading a next level faith is all about influencing the world around them. It's the outflow of a closer relationship with God. You'll be equipped to challenge your students to see their lives as opportunities to make a real difference for the sake of the Gospel.

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